

Conservation Practice Standard Overview

Sediment Basin (350)

A sediment basin is a constructed basin designed to collect and store waterborne debris or sediment.

Practice Information

Sediment basins are used where physical conditions, ownership, management, or economics preclude treatment of a sediment source by use of other conservation practices. Sediment basins are often installed on construction or mining sites to protect the natural resources until vegetation or structures are installed to control sources of sediment. Other practices are sometimes needed with a sediment basin to protect natural resources.

Sediment basins; preserve the capacity of reservoirs, culverts, ditches, canals, diversions, waterways, and streams; prevent excessive down-slope deposition; trap sediment originating from construction sites; and reduce or abate damage to natural resources from pollution or deposition of sediment.

Sediment basins are designed to intercept as much of the runoff as possible from a disturbed area and detain that runoff long enough for most of the sediment to settle to the bottom of the basin.



Operation and maintenance requirements will include periodic inspections with prompt repair or replacement of damaged components, periodic removal of sediment, and periodic mowing of vegetation.

Common Associated Practices

Sediment Basin (350) may be a component practice of a required storm water management plan and/or erosion and sediment control plan. It is commonly applied with practices such as Critical Area Planting (342), Mulching (484), and water control structures

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.